

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 13 to 20, the independent claims being Claims 13, 16 and 19. Claims 13, 16 and 19 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated June 10, 2003, Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,851 (Yoshimura) in view of Japanese Patent Document No. 6319076 (Tsukasa), and Claims 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Yoshimura '851 patent and the Tsukasa JP '076 reference, in view of Official Notice. Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by the Tsukasa JP '076 reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above arguments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 13, 16 and 19 have been amended herein even more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel reproduction apparatus and method. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 13, the present invention relates to a reproduction apparatus comprising reproduction means for reproducing multi-frame data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image frame, where the multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural rectangular frames each having the same size,

and processing means for processing the multi-frame data reproduced by the reproduction means so as to operably enlarge one of the plurality of pictures.

In a similar aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 16, the present invention relates to a reproduction method comprising the steps of reproducing multi-frame data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image frame, where the multi-frame data represents a multi-frame composed of plural rectangular frames each having the same size, and processing the multi-frame data reproduced in the reproducing step so as to operably enlarge one of the plurality of pictures.

In another aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 19, the present invention relates to an image pickup apparatus comprising a memory which stores a number N of reduced images, selection means for selecting one of the N reduced images in accordance with an instruction from a user, and display means for operably enlarging the one reduced image selected by the selection means and displaying the enlarged image.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Yoshimura '851 patent relates to a videosystem using two different kinds of recording media, and discloses a system that reproduces a plurality of images from a recording medium. However, Applicant submits that the Yoshimura '851 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Rather, the Yoshimura '851 patent is understood merely to illustrate in Fig. 12 and disclose in the corresponding written disclosure a method of reproducing from a recording medium as a

multi-frame image a plurality of “small images.” Nowhere is the Yoshimura ‘851 patent understood to disclose or suggest the feature of reproducing multi-frame data from the recording medium and then processing *the multi-frame data* to operably enlarge one of the plurality of pictures displayed in accordance with the multi-frame data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The Tsukasa JP ‘076 reference relates to a multiscreen display system, and discloses a multiscreen display system including a control circuit that seeks, tracks and inputs a multi-picture in a memory (17), and sets up and displays the number of frames of the multi-picture in response to depression of a multi-picture number setting key 2b. The track of a slave picture is specified in a moving direction, a moving distance and a magnification ratio are input by a slave picture moving distance/magnification ratio setting key 2d, and a subject on each slave picture consequently can’t be moved to the center of a screen, and an enlarged slave picture can be displayed. However, Applicant submits that the Tsukasa JP ‘076 reference fails to disclose or suggest the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that the Tsukasa JP ‘076 reference is not prior art against the subject application. The Tsukasa JP ‘076 reference has a publication date of November 15, 1994; the present invention claims a priority filing date of August 28, 1991. A certified copy of Japanese priority document number 3-217020 filed August 28, 1991, previously was submitted on November 29, 1993, in parent Application Number. 07/935,908 filed August 27, 1992. Examination of the corresponding drawings of the certified Japanese priority document readily will support Applicant’s claim to priority. Nevertheless, Applicant is preparing a sworn English translation of the Japanese priority document and will submit same to complete the Official File. Applicant respectfully submits that the

Tsukasa JP '076 reference therefor should be withdrawn as prior art against the present application, and respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims over the Tsukasa JP '076 reference be withdrawn.

Applicant again notes the Examiner's comments taking "official notice" that "it is notoriously well known in the video recording/reproducing art to [compress] image data before recording the same on the recording medium." However, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization, Applicant submits that such "official notice" fails to add anything to the Yoshimura '851 patent disclosure that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 13, 16 and 19 are allowable over the cited art.

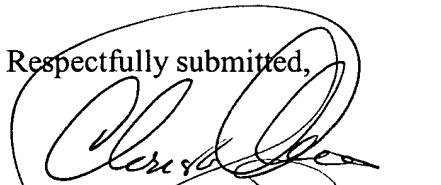
Claims 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 depend from Claims 13, 16 and 19, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of independent Claims 13, 16 and 19, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant submits that the present amendments merely are minor and formal in nature, and do not add significant new issues for consideration. Applicant believes that the present amendment places the subject applicant in condition for allowance, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Christopher Philip Wrist
Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CPW\gmc\eyw
DC_MAIN 149570v1